

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20

AGR-20 DRC-01 /106 W

----- 084873

R 191500Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4463

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELTN, BY, RW, TZ

SUBJECT: RWANDAN DELEGATION; TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

1. RWANDAN DELEGATION LED BY MR. NBUHUNGIREHE, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY, AND INCLUDING SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, VISITED BURUNDI SEPTEMBER 13TH AND 14TH. IT DELIVERED A MESSAGE FROM THE RWANDAN PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT MICOMBERO OF BURUNDI.

2. IN PRESS INTERVIEW, THE RWANDAN MINISTER WAS RELUCTANT TO REVEAL PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT, BUT HE DID SPEAK OF TWO COUNTRIES' COMMON USE OF TRANSPORTATION ROUTES FOR THE SAME PRODUCTS. PRESUMABLY HE WAS THINKING PRINCIPALLY OF COFFEE EXPORTED THROUGH DAR ES SALAAM.

3. ONE PURPOSE FOR THE RWANDAN VISIT MAY THUS HAVE BEEN TO DISCUSS WHAT COULD BE DONE TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS BEING ENCOUNTERED IN EXPORTING COFFEE. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES IN BUJUMBURA, THE TANZANIANS HAVE INFORMED BURUNDI THAT THEY CANNOT ACCEPT MORE COFFEE INTO THE TANZANIAN TRANSPORT SYSTEM

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AT THE PRESENT TIME. (THE PRINCIPAL BOTTLENECK IS DAR ES

SALAAM PORT; REPORTS HERE STATE MANY SHIPS THAT MIGHT CARRY THE COFFEE ARE LEAVING BEFORE LOADING IS COMPLETED, OR EVEN WITHOUT WAITING FOR A BERTH.) BURUNDI IS THEREFORE FEARFUL THAT IT MAY BE UNABLE TO MEET ITS COMMITMENT TO SHIP SIX THOUSAND TONS OF COFFEE SOLD AT LAST SPRING'S HIGH COFFEE PRICES FROM DAR ES SALAAM BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER. IN THAT CASE THE CONTRACT HOLDERS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY DENOUNCE THE CONTRACTS, SINCE THEY COULD GAIN APPROXIMATELY 20 CENTS A POUND BY DOING SO. RWANDA IS PRESUMABLY FACING SIMILAR PROBLEM.

4. TANZANIA'S FAILURE TO MOVE 6,000 TONS IN FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE SEASON WOULD BE IN SHARP CONTRAST TO ITS ABILITY TO HANDLE 5,000 TONS PER MONTH JUST A FEW YEARS AGO.
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Message Attributes

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